

# **TENNESSEE STATE NATURAL AREAS REGISTRY PROGRAM**



## **Division of Natural Areas Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation**

The Tennessee State Natural Areas Registry Program recognizes certain ecologically significant sites in Tennessee as Registered State Natural Areas. Authorized under TCA 11-14-112 - Registration of Privately Owned Areas, this Act allows the Department to maintain a registry of scenic or natural-scientific areas that are not in state ownership, and whose owners have voluntarily agreed to maintain them in a natural state. These voluntary Agreements are entered into by mutual consent through a written agreement between the Department and the landowner, and offer private and public landowners an opportunity to become actively involved in the conservation of rare species and habitats on their lands. Potential sites are evaluated by Division of Natural Areas staff, and must meet specific criteria to qualify as a Registered State Natural Area. Owners of Registered State Natural Areas are provided with a framed certificate commemorating the site, as well as a subscription to The Tennessee Conservationist, the award winning bi-monthly publication of the Department.

### **Registered State Natural Areas**

- Are voluntary and non-binding agreements based on landowner consent
- Are targeted toward sites with rare species or rare natural communities
- Are targeted toward private lands, but may include local and federal government lands
- Rely on the landowner's active participation and sense of pride and stewardship
- Are not legally binding and are not protected under law
- Receive annual monitoring visits by Natural Areas Program staff
- Provide general management guidance and technical assistance to the landowner
- May provide financial assistance to the landowner to accomplish management goals
- Location and ownership information is not publicized without landowner permission

For more information about the **Tennessee State Natural Areas Registry Program**, call 615-532-0431. Information about the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas is available at:

[www.tdec.net/na](http://www.tdec.net/na) .